

The core purpose of the Department of Environmental Health is to provide for a safe environment by enforcing environmental standards in the City of Wichita and the unincorporated areas of Sedgwick County.

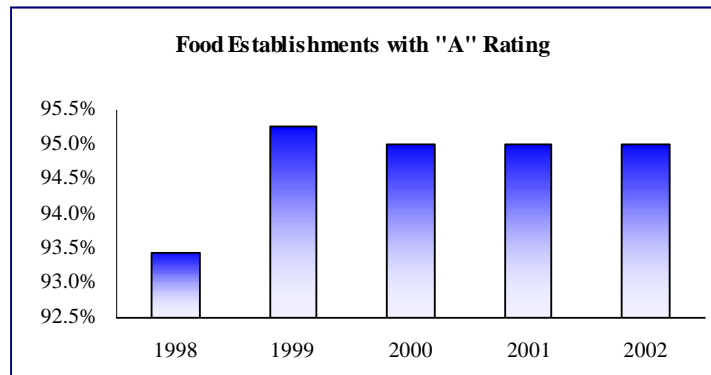
Overview

In a collaborative effort to more closely align similar services and clients, the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County shifted Preventive Health Services under the umbrella of County administration, while the City of Wichita retained the administration of Environmental Health beginning with fiscal 2002. The Environmental Health Department, previously a division of the former consolidated Community Health Department, remains a component in the overall City/County health program.

The Department is responsible for air quality control, water quality control, animal control, environmental code enforcement, food protection and tobacco control and licensure of childcare facilities. The Department also administers the groundwater remediation efforts of Gilbert & Mosley and the North Industrial Corridor, both funded through tax increment financing districts.

Finance and Operations

The General Fund finances Environmental Health along with program revenue and grant support from the Community Development Block Grant, the Environmental Protection Agency and from the State of Kansas. Program budgets are maintained for those services provided exclusively within the City limits and those that are provided throughout the County, which are included in the City-County funding formula.



Food Protection Program: The Food Protection Program provides regulatory oversight, consultative services and educational support for food establishments in Wichita and Sedgwick County. Inspections of food service establishment are partially funded under a contract with KDHE. In fiscal 2001, the Department conducted 2,248 inspections of area food service facilities.

Food service inspection services and food handlers' classes are offered by the Health Department under contract with KDHE. A 2001 KDHE approved increase in fees for inspection and licensing of food service provides funding for an additional food inspector beginning in 2002 to assist with inspecting the approximate 3,700 food service establishments in Sedgwick County. The additional inspector will improve cost recovery and help ensure that area citizens continue to be protected from food-borne pathogens and illnesses.

Environmental Code Enforcement: The Code Enforcement section investigates and resolves premise condition complaints involving neighborhood blight, safety or public health issues. In

Selected Service Levels - Lot Mowing and Cleanup					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Lots mowed	168	169	259	346	520
Lots cleaned	956	772	1,251	1,709	2,626

2001, 7,856 public complaints were received for premise conditions and an additional 1,262 public complaints were received for tall grass or weeds. The staff directly initiated an additional

Selected Service Levels - Nuisance Abatement					
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Public premise condition complaints	9,201	7,856	7,597	5,888	3,262
Public complaints of tall grass/weeds	1,662	1,262	300	200	100
Staff-initiated premise conditions	1,133	979	259	346	520
Staff initiated tall grass-weed cases	1,799	1,965	1,251	1,709	2,626

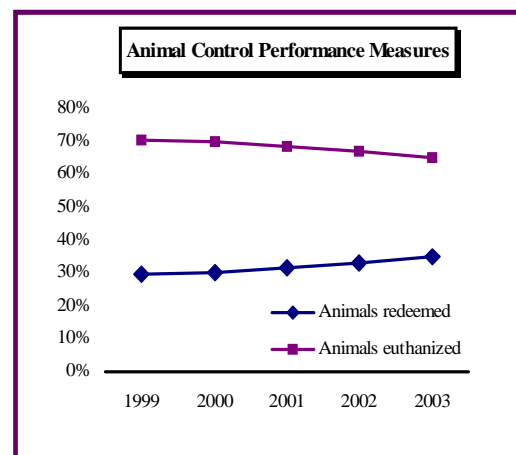
2,944 cases. The field staff were successful in having 2,183 junk vehicles removed and in bringing 7,456 properties into compliance. Of the properties brought into compliance, the City cleaned or mowed 941 of those properties and sought reimbursement for the cost from the property owners. Violations are resolved through voluntary compliance or referral to a private contractor for abatement or court action.

Beginning with the 2001 Revised Budget, the City Council has authorized increased funding for neighborhood cleanup and abatement of nuisance code violations. The Council action emphasized abatement and cleanup with less reliance on court-ordered remedies. An additional \$125,000 in 2002, \$235,000 in 2003, and \$455,000 in 2004 has been included for increased lot mowing and clean-up activity.

Animal Control: The Animal Control section provides field activities and operates the Wichita Animal Shelter. Striving to keep dangerous or rabid animals off of the streets. Animal Control Officers respond to citizen calls to pick up stray animals, issue summonses for leash law violations, remove dead animals, transport injured animals for emergency treatment and investigate cruelty complaints in the City. In addition, officers investigate all animal bites in Sedgwick County and quarantine animals suspected of having rabies.

The Wichita Animal Shelter is the holding facility for all animals received from the City of Wichita, including stray animals held for a three-day redemption period, quarantined rabies suspect animals and unwanted pets turned over by the public. Shelter services are provided under contract for animal control programs operated by Sedgwick County and for other area cities.

A pet adoption program is offered which requires a pre-payment for spaying and neutering. Responsible pet ownership is promoted with a public education program, including an internet-based pet adoption program that enables interested citizens to see pictures and get information about animals available for adoption.



Pool Inspection Program: Environmental Health conducts inspections of more than 250 swimming pools and spas in the City, enforcing health and safety standards including pH and chlorine levels, water clarity, and the presence of safety equipment. Staff perform more than 1,000 swimming pool and spa inspections per year at licensed pool/spa facilities.

Tobacco Sales Enforcement: Tobacco vendors operating within the City of Wichita are periodically evaluated by the Health Department to ensure licensing requirements are met. Volunteers are used for undercover tobacco sales compliance checks. In 2001, the City conducted 282 checks and had a 92.5 percent compliance rate, which compares favorably to the 1999 compliance rate of 81 percent, and to the 2000 compliance rate of 86.6 percent. Health Department staff also conduct a program to educate youth in the community about the negative consequences of smoking.



Health staff provide instruction to help area child care providers meet licensing requirements. Staff also offer programs to assist providers with age appropriate care and activities.

Child Care Licensing: The City contracts with the State of Kansas to provide child care licensure services in Sedgwick County. Funded with local tax dollars, licensure fees, and a grant from the State of Kansas, a staff of eight educate, inspect, and license providers making on average, 280 field visits monthly. Orientation and continuing education programs are offered free of charge to assist providers with maintaining a safe and enriching environment for the children.

Environmental Maintenance: Environmental Maintenance consists of air and water quality programs, and assessment of sites for environmental contaminants, as well as the remediation of contaminated sites. Assisted with federal and state grants, both water and air quality are monitored and preventive and remedial actions initiated. Staff also manage the groundwater remediation efforts in the Gilbert and Mosley and North Industrial Corridor Tax Increment Financing Districts.

Selected Service Levels - Water Quality				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Private well inspections	1,718	2,138	1,950	1,950
On-site sewage system inspections	325	109	100	100
Wells/Septics real estate evaluations	719	856	800	800
Private water analyzed	1,465	1,628	1,550	1,550
Plats or subdivisions reviewed for MAPC	41	41	40	40

EPA funding finances the Ark River Water quality study and Brownsfield investigations. The Ark River study assesses the water in the lower Arkansas River focusing on pollution sources that diminish the quality of the water and the impact upon the river and its users. Ultimately and as a result of the study, preventive measures will be developed to improve the quality of the river water for the benefit of future generations. The Brownsfield funds are utilized to conduct environmental assessments to determine the presence or absence of environmental pollutants in abandoned or underutilized industrial and commercial sites where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination.

The Water Quality staff inspect placement and construction of

Selected Service Levels - Air Quality				
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Ambient (outdoor) air samples	2,158	2,400	2,400	2,600
Air toxicity samples	28	25	30	30
Investigations of ambient (outdoor) air toxicity	39	27	40	40
Investigations of indoor air toxicity	238	217	230	240
Investigations for asbestos	221	159	130	100
Permitted industrial air pollution inspections	164	171	190	210
Hazardous Material responses	105	104	105	105

water wells and septic/sewage systems to ensure the safety of the water supply. Water Quality staff conducted 2,138 private well inspections, analyzed 1,628 water samples, processed 360 septic system applications, and inspected 901 septic systems and waste water disposal systems. In addition, the staff review subdivision plats and provide evaluations of water and septic systems for loan evaluations. Water quality activities are supported with State funds as well as local tax dollars and user fees.

Air Quality staff monitor ambient air 24 hours per day from eight sites for various air quality parameters. In 2001, the staff conducted 217 indoor air quality investigations as well, responded to 104 hazardous material incidents, conducted 159 asbestos investigations and inspected 171 permitted operations. Air quality activities are financed with State grants and local tax dollars.

Environmental Assessment and Remediation staff responded to 655 requests for public information, sampled water from 131 monitoring wells, sampled water from 45 surface sites and drilled 24 test holes. In addition, the staff review and process applications for release from liability from groundwater contamination in the Gilbert and Mosley and North Industrial Corridor. Managing the investigation and remediation of the contaminated sites is a primary responsibility of Assessment and Remediation staff.

Highlights

- ✓ Reflects the transition of Personal Health programs to Sedgwick County, with Environmental Health programs continuing under the administration of the City of Wichita.
- ✓ Adds one part-time position to inspect the more than 250 public pools and spas to insure compliance with safety standards.
- ✓ Provides funding for increased focus on nuisance abatement, lot mowing and cleanup.
- ✓ Transfers the Environmental Risk Manager from the Risk Management Division of Finance to address groundwater safety practices before remediation efforts are needed.

Health Department Budget Summary

	2001 Actual	2002 Adopted	2002 Revised	2003 Adopted	2004 Approved
Total Health Expenditures	5,676,117	6,573,560	3,325,270	3,601,980	3,912,990
--Less: Sedgwick County	(1,551,570)	(1,817,320)	0	0	0
Other revenue	(365,163)	(435,500)	(399,400)	(465,900)	(466,900)
City General Fund Subsidy	3,759,384	4,320,740	2,925,870	3,136,080	3,446,090
Clinic Fees - Revenue	1,003,200	1,003,200	0	0	0
Clinic Fees - Expenditures	1,127,290	1,127,290	1,228,420	0	0
Local Resources	6,803,407	7,700,850	2,925,870	3,601,980	3,912,990
Grant Resources	4,591,624	4,699,410	1,091,590	900,500	909,510
Total Health Resources	11,395,031	12,400,260	4,017,460	4,502,480	4,822,500
Total full-time positions	116	116	64	64	64
Total part-time positions	16	16	10	11	11
Total FTE	122	122	69	70	70